



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,152	08/01/2001	Robert S. Brown	5047A	6325

7590

07/30/2003

Milliken & Company
P.O. Box 1926
Spartanburg, SC 29304

EXAMINER

STINSON, FRANKIE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1746

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,152

Applicant(s)

BROWN ET AL.

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 4/3-8/3, 17-27 AND 29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4/2 AND 9-15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16,28 and 30-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5/2-8/2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1746

1. Claims 3, 4/3-8/3, 17-27 and 29 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 7.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of the invention of GROUP I in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the inventions are so closely related that they should be examined together. This is not found persuasive because the search for the claims in GROUP II and GROUP III are not required in the search of the claims in GROUP I.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5/2-8/2 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 5/2-8/2 have not been further treated on the merits.

5. Claims 16 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over either Watson or Higgins (U. S. Pat. No. 5,381,592).

Art Unit: 1746

Watson and Higgins are both directed to a process of refurbishing/renewing/recycling carpet tiles for reuse, and thusly, it is noted that the claimed product appears to be the same or similar to that of the prior art, although produced by a different process.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of either Watson or Higgins '592.

Re claim 30, Brown discloses treating the carpet a method of renewing a carpet capable of being renewed, comprising treating the carpet by one of a new color, design, pattern, which give the carpet a new look that differs from the claim only in the recitation of the carpet being cleaned. Watson and Higgins each disclose the cleaning of the carpet. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Brown to have the used tile cleaned before treating, as taught by either Watson or Higgins, for the purpose of removing any undesirable debris that could hinder the desired treatment results. Re claim 31, Brown discloses the steps comprising one of adding cushion, adding backing, adding anti-microbial agents, adding anti-fungal agents and combination thereof.

8. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Brown.

Art Unit: 1746

Brown discloses a tile that has been treated for reuse, and thusly, it is noted that the claimed product appears to be the same or similar to that of the prior art, although produced by a different process.

9. Claims 1, 2, 4/2 and 9-15 are allowed.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Levitch, Endrenyi, Jr. et al., Stephens et al., Mullinax et al., Raus, Japan 8-92880 and Drake, Jr. et al., note the renewing/replacing/recycling of carpet.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661. The examiner can normally be reached during the first week of the pay-period M-F from 5:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and during the second week of the pay-period from Tu-Th second from 5:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Fri. from 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Alternating Mondays off.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310 (NON-FINAL REJECTION STATUS) and (703) 872-9311 (AFTER-FINAL REJECTION STATUS).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Art Unit: 1746

Any inquiry for missing parts of this Office Action (copies of references, pages, forms etc.), contact Office Manager Ms. Sandra Sewell. (703) 308-0661.

fls



FRANKIE L. STINSON
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1746